

FOR IMMEDIATE
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The "Goleta Prepare Now" program is offering free Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents within the City of Goleta. The CERT training program prepares community members to take a more active role in emergency preparedness. CERT participants are trained to serve as part of neighborhood or workplace response teams in the event of a major disaster, when emergency services may not be available and when residents may have to rely on each other for life-saving and life-sustaining needs.

Participants in the CERT program will learn about disaster preparedness and response, basic fire safety, disaster psychology, first aid, search and rescue techniques and terrorism preparedness.

CERT courses consist of a series of eight (8) classes. Each course will conclude with a mock-disaster drill, which will test the participants' knowledge and skills learned in the training. The CERT course is taught by fire fighters, first responders and volunteers from the south coast area.

The classes are free of charge and begin on Thursday, July 8, 2010, and conclude on Thursday, August 19, 2010. All classes will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Goleta Valley Community Center. The mock-disaster drill will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2010, from 8 a.m. to noon. Space is limited, so participants are encourage to enroll early. Registration forms can be obtained by visiting the "Goleta Prepare Now" website at <http://www.goletapreparenow.org/community-emergency-response-team>, or by emailing goletapreparenow@cityofgoleta.org. Forms are also available at Goleta City Hall, 130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta, CA 93117.